



American Citizen Bulletin

December 2010

*On Behalf of American Citizen Services
We would like to wish you*



TRAVELING FOR THE HOLIDAYS? HAVE YOU CHECKED ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COUNTRIES YOU ARE VISITING?

China and many other countries in Asia require at least six months validity on your passport. Before you travel, be sure to check your destination countries entry/exit requirement on our website's country specific information at Travel.State.Gov.

TAKING PRECAUTIONS AT BEIJING BARS AND NIGHTCLUBS

The U.S. Embassy has seen an increase in reports of violence against U.S. citizens at bars and nightclubs in Beijing. The most recent incidents began as disputes over small matters, such as spilled drinks or laughter that was taken as a gibe, and then developed into serious altercations resulting in injuries.

In recent weeks, the U.S. Embassy received several reports about the unprovoked harassment of U.S. citizens, including two incidents that occurred at the Club Latte nightclub on the property of Worker's Stadium near the Sanlitun bar district. In light of these incidents, the U.S. Embassy has advised U.S. government personnel to avoid going to Club Latte. You should take this information into consideration when making entertainment plans.

In order to avoid becoming the victim of such an attack, please follow these safety tips:

- Pay attention to your surroundings. If you feel unsafe or believe that other bar/club patrons or staff wish you ill, leave. Don't stick around on principle.
- When going to bars and clubs, go with other people. (The more, the merrier, the safer!)
- If you want to go to a new bar or club, learn about it first. English publications geared to the expatriate community may have information about recent criminal incidents.
- Carry a cell phone at all times.
- If you are the victim of a crime or you have been threatened, seek safety. Notify the nearest police station and call the U.S. Embassy at the emergency after-hours number given below.

The U.S. Embassy can be reached 24 hours per day. During business hours, call 86-10-8531-4000 or email amcitbeijing@state.gov. **For emergencies after hours or on weekends, call 86-10-8531-3000.** The Embassy is located near the Line 10 LiangMaQuiao subway stop at 55 An Jia Lou Road, Chaoyang District. The Embassy's website is bei-jing.usembassy-china.org.cn.

If you are residing or traveling in China we recommend that you enroll with the U.S. Embassy's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. You should also regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov> while living or travelling abroad.

SHARE YOUR ABSENTEE VOTING EXPERIENCE WITH US

Are you a U.S. citizen living overseas who is eligible to vote in the federal election process? If so, we need your help! Before we can improve the process, we need to know about your voting experiences. The Federal Voting Assistance Program has released a survey to help you provide this information. The data collected from this survey is mandated by Congress and will be reviewed to help us identify what is working and what we can improve. Access the survey at: www.drcsurveys.com/PEV2/News/.

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER TEST TO BE GIVEN IN CHINA

The Foreign Service Officer Test will be given in Beijing, Saturday February 12, 2010. For registration deadline and details please visit our website at <http://careers.state.gov/officer/register.html>.

DEPARTING FROM CHINA WITH PETS

Are you planning to depart China with your pet? The International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS) in Beijing is offering the following free community event: Departing from China with Pets: Step-by-Step Guide for Pet Owners to take Pets Overseas.

Date: Saturday, January 22, 2011
Time: 11:00AM to 12:00 PM
Place: International Center for Veterinary Services

Kent Center, No. 29 Liang Ma Qiao Lu, An Jia Lou
Chaoyang District, Beijing 100125
(In the same courtyard as Chinese Culture Center)
地址: 北京新天地国际动物医院
北京市朝阳区安家楼亮马桥路29号肯特中心院内, 邮编: 100125

EXCHANGE RATE CHANGE AT EMBASSY CASHIER FOR CONSULAR FEES

Starting January 4, 2011, the Embassy Cashier exchange rate will be updated to better reflect current exchange rates. Please check our website for more information.

ACS CLOSURE NOTICE – December 24, 31 & January 3, 17

The American Citizen Services section will be closed on December 24 and 31, and January 3 and 17 for the holiday season. Be sure to schedule appointments on-line at <http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html>.